

"DER SPIEGEL", # 42; HAMBURG, OCT 12, 1960; pp 38-41

RESUME: In Sep 29, 1960 Bulletin of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Foreign Office published a denial of articles which had appeared in the HAMBURGER ECHO (Sep 17, 19) and in the SPIEGEL (Sep 26) concerning alleged collaboration of present day government officials in Greece with Nazi officials during the German occupation calling them "false and highly offensive". The articles in question had stated that Greek politicians had received confiscated Jewish property in exchange for information they gave to "Abwehr" (counter-intelligence) authorities. The statement of the Foreign Office, however, did not reply to any of the charges in particular, but confined itself to generalizations irrelevant to the facts described by the above papers. Mr. Ypsilanti, Greek Ambassador to Germany, tried to argue on his part:

- a) That the Greek president had never been to Thessaloniki during the time of the German occupation
- b) That Mr. Makris, now Minister of the Interior, had not met Karamanlis before 1956
- c) That the wife of Makris (presumably the niece of Karamanlis) was not related to the president at all
- d) That Makris (presumably engaged at that time to his then 17 years old wife in 1942/43) did not know his future wife at the time, and that he married her as late as 1949

Most of these assertions, however, are absolutely immaterial in reference to the statements made by the former German War Administrator

Max Merten, who had simply claimed that

- a) a Miss Doxula Leontidu, his interpreter, had made contacts with Greek collaborators
- b) That this lady introduced to him the lawyer Constantin Karamanlis from Seres in Macedonia, whom she used to call "uncle", and a certain Demetrios Makris presumably her fiance.
- c) That these three persons, Constantin Karamanlis, Demetrios Makris, and the wife of the latter (nee Leontidu) were compensated by him with the valuable silk storehouse of a deported Jew, which they later sold. The first statement of the Greek ambassador was consequently irrelevant, the second, third and fourth were only meant to prove that the three persons did not know each other at the time in question, the denial did not even deny that all three knew Merten.

In the meantime, the lawyer Dr. Max Merten has brought an action against Mrs. Makris for perjury, as she had sworn before the War Criminal Court in Athens (which later sentenced Merten to 25 years, and deported him to Germany) to have seen Merten only twice and rather casually. Mr. Merten has in his possession a photograph album presented to him as a souvenir by Doxula Leontidu.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY